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Photo Comp Winner 3 - by Annette Green 1

## Jan 2022 Newsletter

*Happy New Year to you all, we hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas.*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Long Walk	Wed 5 Jan	10.00 hrs	Puy D'Enfer
Southern Walk	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30 hrs	Suaze Vaussais
Reading Circle	Mon 17th Jan	10.00 hrs	Cherveux
Northern Walk	Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan 22	10.30 hrs	La Bourse
Wine and Lunch Club	Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 22	11.30 hrs	Sauze Vaussais
AGM - TBC	Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11.00 hrs	Menigoute
Quiz	Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> March	18.30 hrs	Fomperron

- Next Committee Meeting Wed 19<sup>th</sup> January
- Final Copy Date May Newsletter Items 25<sup>th</sup> Jan
- ([gtnewsletter79@gmail.com](mailto:gtnewsletter79@gmail.com))
- for publication by 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNERS

The results are in and we have three winners all receiving the same number of votes. They will all receive a third of the total prize money – All photographs will be seen over the course of the year in the newsletter.



Photo Comp Winner 1 -by Margaret Baldwin

Margaret Baldwin – St Germain de Longue Chaume

Diane Mousdale - Maulevrier

Annette Green – St Lary Soulan, Pyrenees

In no particular order here are the runners up –  
**Eric Hansford, Roger Amsden, Sally Coppack, Diane Mousdale, Annette Green and Margaret Baldwin.**

**Thank you to everyone who submitted photographs and took the time to vote – It was much appreciated.**



Photo Comp Winner 2 - by Diane Mousdale 1

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Long Walk – Wed 5th January 2022 – 09.30 hrs – Puy d’Enfer – Leslie Green**

The long walk, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022, Puy d’Enfer 10.00 am, Parking at La Gaconniere, Exireuil  
January's long walk of 10 km starts at La Gaconniere and takes us through the surrounding countryside, some steep hills and paths en route.

Lunch venue – Le p’tit Toque, Nanteuil approx 14.50€.

#### **Southern Walk - 10am - Wed 12th Jan 2022 – Sauze Vaussais - Peter Murray**

8km and 4km walk starting from our house, 3 Route du chateaux d'eau, peruse,79190 Sauze Vaussais

Those doing the short walk are welcome to have a coffee and wait for return of the other walkers.

The first 4km is on flat ground along calcaire roads and through the woods which might be muddy if it's been raining. As we pass our house we lose those doing the short walk and continue along the road and up a hill to a grassy track that descends down to the river Peruse. We cross the river via 2 narrow bridges and then climb a hill upto the road . A short walk along the road and then we take a calcaire track back to the house.

Lunch will be at Le Sons restaurant at Mairie Lavescault - approx 16€

Please book by Saturday 8th January 2022

#### **Reading Circle - Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 - 10:30 hrs - Chez Ritchie - Lesley Ritchie.**

Our next meeting will be at 11.30am on Monday 17th January, at Lesley Ritchies house in Cherveux.

We will be discussing the 2011 Man Booker Prize winner, *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Lesley.

New members are very welcome.

**Northern Walk - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 - 11.00 hrs - La Bourse (L'Absie) – Helen Horton**

The January northern walk will be on Friday 29th January 2022, starting at La Bourse (near L'Absie) and will be a gently undulating walk of approx 6km.

Please meet at 11am at 14 La Bourse where there is ample parking and a toilet. Please wear appropriate clothing and boots as it could be muddy/wet.

The meal will be at 1pm at Chez Chantal on the outskirts of L'Absie where there is also ample parking. The meal will be 14€ for 3 courses but does not include wine or coffee. The restaurant is open from 11 for anyone just wanting to meet for coffee and to join for the meal only.

Full details of the menu will be provided later and vegetarians/pescetarians will be provided for.

Please contact Helen Horton to book a place.

Please state whether for walk + meal or meal only and any dietary requirements.

**Lunch & Wine Group                      Tues 1st February                      11.30 am                      Julia & Peter Murray**

The next Lunch & Wine group will be held at Julia & Peters home in Sauze Vassais.

If you have never been along to one of these meetings why not come for an enjoyable convivial lunch and to taste some wines.

The theme for this meeting will be Spain, for both the food and the wines, with a description of each wine.

If you are interested, or would like any more information, please contact Diane or Keith Mousdale

**AGM      Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Feb      Menigoute      11hrs      Martin Hughes**

A date for the diary as final details will be confirmed shortly.

As the AGM falls due, it is also time to organise elections for those committee posts where the incumbent has been in place for 2 years.

The constitution states:

At the end of their 2-year period, committee members are eligible for re-election at the annual general meeting, if they wish to continue in office. They are re-elected by a show of hands of the members present at that annual general meeting. Or by a secret ballot at the AGM, if more than one person is standing for the following positions: President, Secretary and Treasurer.

This year it is the following posts which are therefore up for election:  
President, Treasurer, Northern Co-Ordinator and Membership Secretary.

At this time all the current post holders are happy to continue in office.

If you wish to apply for election to any of these roles please contact the Secretary to ask for a

Proposed Nomination form. The completed form should be returned to the secretary at least 28 days before the AGM.

We also hope to do a bring and share lunch.

### **QUIZ - Wed 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - 18.30 hrs - Fomperron – Michele Hansford**

#### **PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE –**

After a very successful return to quizzing in November, we are organising round 2 at Le Bistrot des Amis in Fomperron.

Fish and chips (13 euros) will once again be on the menu, plus a meat and veggie option (11 euros).

Teams of 4 should contact Michele.

Should you find that you cannot put a team together, please contact Michele who may be able to pair you up.

### **Event Reports**

**Maureen & John Buckley**

**Lezay Walk 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**G.Little**

Maureen and John chose good day for the Lezay walk, 11 walkers and 4 dogs managed 8 kms in brilliant sunshine. In the wood section golden leaves on the trees and under foot, in the field area bright green crops a feast for the eyes. 15 diners enjoyed a wonderful meal at the P'tit Berlands.

Many thanks to Maureen and John

**Fine wine tasting**

**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Nov**

**Exireuil**

**Roger Amsden**



Twelve thirsty souls arrived for a warm welcome at Chez Leslie and Annette our hosts for the evening, eagerly anticipating the promised selection of fine wines presented by our wine expert Keith Mousdale.

The first on the list was a Chablis. Premier Cru AoP from Vocoret and Fils Vieilles 2020. Cepage : 100% Chardonnay. Alc;13.5% around 15.50€. This is a medium bodied dry white wine. Not to be confused with The Grand Cru, and goes well with shell fish, crab, lobster, white meat and goats cheese. I found it not as buttery as one would perhaps expect from a Chardonnay, even though I do like that I did enjoy the difference. It had a sweet taste initially with a hint of fruit and pear and apple but not a particularly lasting

finish. Would go well with the forementioned food pairing, chilled on a warm day overlooking the sea. The second was a red wine. St-Emillion Clos des Jacobins 2015 Grand Cru Classé around 27€. Not to be confused with the Grand Cru which is very different and generally overpriced and overrated.

Cepage: Merlot 80%, Cabinet Franc and Cabinet Sauvignon. Alc 14.5%.This Grand Cru Classé is reviewed regularly by a committee to ensure its quality. Well-aged to reduce tannings with a good nose, lots of fruit especially spice with depth and a lasting finish, goes well as you would expect with Beef, Venison Asian and rich fish dishes. Then onto the Languedoc. Domaine de L'Hortus Grand Curvée 2019. Around 22€. Appellation: Pic-Saint-Loup AoP. Cepage: Syrah, Mourvedre and Grenache. Alc: 14.5%. Here we have black fruit, liquorice, cedar and leather but the former escaped me. A light fruity nose, Silky and lighter in depth with a light finish. A refined wine and well balanced flavour. Pairs well with Lamb and lighter meats. Finally A red Burgundy. Domain Faiveley Mercury "La Framboisière" Monopole 2016.Around 29€. Appellation: Mercury

AoP. Cepage: Pinot Noir 100%. Alc. 15%. A wine with a fruity nose , initially sweet but soon developing into medium and fruity flavour with a hint of oak and a light but pleasing finish . Will go well with Beef Wellington; Game stew and capon with mushrooms. Also with chocolate and lemon cake. Beware, wine first then chocolate as the chocolate completely destroys the wine.

Our grateful thanks to Keith and Diane for a well presented sourced and thought out collection especially the preparation of the relevant recommended food pairings to go with them. Also to Annette and Leslie our hosts.

### **Northern Walk      26 November      Faymoreau      Diane Mousdale**

On a dull, cloudy, but dry day a group of 10 humans and 4 dogs set off from the Hotel des Mines for our very pleasant walk. It was along roads and tracks, through wooded areas and nice countryside though, having dropped down to the valley floor there was then the only long hill of the day to negotiate back up. But then the rest of the walk was mainly flat. Nearing the end of the walk we were hoping to visit the church to view the modern stained-glass windows but we were unfortunately denied that pleasure due to the church being locked, hopefully another time if we are in the vicinity. Nearing our return to the lunch venue at the Hotel des Mines we felt the first few spots of rain. An enjoyable lunch followed with just 1 non walking member joining us.



Photo by Annette Green

With thanks to Eric & Michele for organizing the walk and lunch.

### **Long Walk - Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec      La Mothe St Heray - Julia Murray**



Photo by Peter Murray 1

December's long walk wasn't particularly long but turned out to be quite an adventure.

5 walkers and 2 dogs set off from Sevelle near La mothe st heray along lovely tree lined grasses lanes, the dogs were able to be off the lead for 95% of the walk.

The route is called "le six fontaines" ,the first 3 were easy to find. The sign for The 4th took us through the woods and after walking a reasonable distance decided it wasn't there as we were starting to head up hill again, there was a bridge over the river ,again going up hill so we retraced our steps back to the lane. Following the map we took another track into the woods that led us back to the same bridge !

We followed the track and found a turn left sign ,but there was no route at all to the left so we continued along the path which became less defined and blocked with fallen trees. We had walked a good distance by this time ,turning back was not an option. It was decided to go cross country ,over the small river and scramble up the opposite hill. Leslie went ahead to test the route but came back as it was too difficult, on the second attempt made by Peter a route was found, we scrambled up ,often on our hands and knees as it was quite steep and overgrown. Amazingly at the top we crawled through the hedge to find ourselves on the correct track to take us back to the cars.

Everyone enjoyed the walk, lovely views, horses, lamas and fontaines and the unexpected adventure was taken with a positive attitude .

Our lunch was at Le petit Torque in Nantueil and was excellent.



Photo by Annette Green

Thank you to Dorothy and Alan for hosting the lunch club at their lovely house near Souvigne ,where upon arrival we were given a glass of bubbly which promptly made us forget what a horrible wet day it was!

The theme was Alsace and lunch of homemade soup, quiche, pasties for the savory course were accompanied by 3 white wines and a red.

Apple strudel came next ,followed by cake and chocolate which we had with our coffee.

A big thank you to Keith and Diane for choosing the wine, trying to educate us and for making sure we all get our fair

share of wine!

**Christmas Walk and Lunch Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec - Niort - Leslie Green**



25 members and 2 well behaved muttles met by the market in Niort, Annette our guide for the morning, was suitably dressed in a Father Christmas hat. Most of us were shown parts of Niort we hadn't previously seen and we were given lots of information too, such as in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries the ocean extended as far as Niort, making it a prosperous port. The walk also took us to the four bronze dragons, installed to illustrate a local legend. We also passed the 13<sup>th</sup> Century Protestant Temple, then along to the very grand Hotel de Ville. Our walk finished at the Donjon de Niort on the banks of the Sevre Niortais, the Donjon was a keep NOT a dungeon and was initially built by Henry 11 of England and added to by his son Richard the Lionheart.

Everyone was appreciative of Annette's fun guided tour.



All of us then went to meet the non walkers at Les Planches restaurant on the other side of the river. We had our own room upstairs, allowing us to make as much noise as we wanted!! The food, wine, service and ambiance were all perfect for a pre Christmas celebration.

From the compliments the committee received, we would all recommend this restaurant, the food was delicious.

We also had a free raffle – a bottle of Champagne – which was won by Colin Vane.

A big thank you to Michele for organising the event and Annette for the tour.

## [NON GT](#)

### **Cancer Support Deux Sevres**

aims to improve the lives of people affected by Cancer in Deux Sevres  
CSDS direct number is 06 40 77 27 35  
or contact Cancer Support France on freephone number 0800 240 200  
or email Cancer Support France on [helpline@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:helpline@cancersupportfrance.org)  
Cancer Support France will forward your details if you need local support

### **Emergency Phone Numbers**

- 15** SAMU (Medical)
- 17** Gendarmes
- 18** Pompiers (Fire Service – also trained for Medical Emergencies)
- 112** European Emergency Number

Don't Forget to Download the 'In Case of Emergency' Leaflet off the Get Together website, [gettogether-france.org](http://gettogether-france.org), move your mouse to 'information', then click on 'Useful Links'.  
You will find the ICE leaflet at the top of the list. Why not keep a copy by your phone and in your car.

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